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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

### INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Austria (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT Soviet Artillery and Tank Maneuvers

ORIGIN

18  
DIST. 18 September 1947

PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT

ATTACHMENT 1

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1. Active artillery practice began on 16 June. Three distinct types of training were observed:

- a. Artillery
- b. Motorized units, including tanks, self-propelled guns, and motorized reconnaissance units
- c. Special officers' course.

2. Parallel with these exercises was the continued training of other units, e.g., engineers (including bridge-building), signal practice, etc. Full-scale maneuvers will begin only after the completion of training in each of these individual branches of the service.

3. Direct visual observation of the artillery practice was not possible as the area is closed; frequent firing could, however, be heard and an average of fifty shots an hour were counted.

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4. Officers' course.

Officers taking part in this course came from all over the Russian Zone of Austria; in particular, officers were from Kaiser-Ebersdorf, Payerbach-Reichenau (five kilometers north of Semmering Pass), and St. Poelten. The course is expected to last through the summer.

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5. The practical part of the course takes place on the training grounds north of Allentsteig; student officers are conveyed there in two trucks bearing a tactical insignie of crossed cannons.

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Forty-two officers attended on 24 June 1947.

6. Practical Training.

An entire battery is employed; the officers confine themselves to commands and to directing the firing, and each piece is manned by the regular gun crew. The guns are unlimbered and limbered up at the beginning and end of the exercise.

7. On 24 June 1947, the following maneuver was carried out with the 122 mm howitzers:

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Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C

DDI Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG. 77/1763

Date: 2 MAY 1977 By:           

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-2-

- a. On the first command, the four pieces are placed in line facing to the front at equidistances of twenty meters. (see sketch (a))
  - b. On the second command, all pieces, except the one at the left, are moved back until they form a diagonal line still facing to the front; at this point, the pieces are twenty meters behind and twenty meters to the right of the forward gun. (see sketch (b))
  - c. On a further command, all pieces are turned forty-five degrees to the right, again to form one front. The gun muzzles, which have hitherto been elevated at an angle of forty to fifty degrees, are now lowered to the horizontal. The maneuver is performed with great speed, as though to engage a suddenly appearing target at short range (see sketch (c)).
8. During the practice maneuver, the (single-axle) gun limbers stand fifteen meters to the rear of each gun, two men to each limber.
  9. Each gun crew consists of one NCO and four privates. The NCO stands three to five meters to the left of the piece and approaches the gun only for a brief inspection after each new orientation of the muzzle.
  10. The above-described maneuver took place without a shot being fired.
  11. Tank Maneuvers  
On 25 June 1947, tank maneuvers were carried out, but, because of the rolling terrain, it was impossible to observe more than the beginning of the operation. The starting point was the road Edelbach-Aepfelschwendt (7-10 km east of Allentsteig), general direction S.W.
  12. Taking part in the maneuvers were six SU 152 mm self-propelled guns (without muzzle-brake) followed by thirty-two heavy tanks, believed to be KV 85.
  13. Six of these tanks had what appeared to be a heavy machine gun for AA defense on the left upper part of the turret. Their caliber is estimated at 15 mm. The length or portion projecting from the turret is about 1.5 meters.
  14. When the leader of the column reached Felsenberg (two km south of the starting line), the tanks covered the advance of the self-propelled guns, which moved in close formation in the direction of Thaurer (three km southwest).
  15. During the maneuvers, three armored scout cars were seen moving along the road Edelbach-Felsenberg (see sketch (d)).
  16. The whole operation was observed by Soviet officers from an anchored balloon, which had previously lain camouflaged on the edge of the wood south of the road Edelbach-Allentsteig, and from an approximately thirty meter-high wooden tower on the Felsenberg.

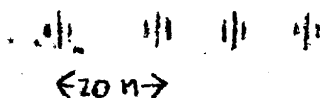
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(a)

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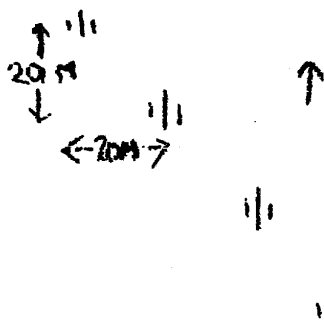
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(b)

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(c)

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